

STOURPORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR 1917.



GENTLEMEN,

A circular issued by the Local Government Board, December 28th, 1917, suggests that again interim reports only should be made for the year, confined to essential and urgent matters.

Vital Statistics.

The data for calculating these statistics have been supplied—as last year—by the Registrar-General.

The Birth and Death Rates are obviously affected by war conditions: the Death Rates apply to civilian cases only.

Estimated population for Births	...	4,306
Estimated population for Deaths	...	3,863

BIRTHS.—64 (males 34, females 30); illegitimate, 5 (males 2, females 3).

DEATHS.—49 (25 males, 24 females).

INFANT MORTALITY.—Deaths of infants under the age of one year—4 (1 male, 3 females).

Birth Rate	...	16.4	...	England and Wales	...	17.8
Death Rate	...	11.3	...	"	"	14.4
Infant Mortality	...	63	...	"	"	97

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Notifiable).—Diphtheria, 1; Measles and German Measles, 18; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 2; Erysipelas, 2; Tuberculosis, 5.

There was no case of Scarlatina notified during the year.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.—Only first cases are notifiable in each household within a period of two months, so that the number notified represents probably about a quarter which occur. Most of the cases occurred in March and April among small children and with the concurrence of the County Medical Officer I recommended the exclusion from school of all children from infected households, who had not had measles for there

weeks, and I think this step was successful in preventing the spread of the disease. Four of the cases were visitors to the district, who, having been infected by the disease elsewhere, developed it here. The epidemic was not of a severe type and only one child died. Each infected household is visited by a County Health Missioner whose visits are generally well—and often gratefully—received, and undoubtedly prove beneficial. Parents and guardians are still apparently unaware that they are legally obliged to notify each case of Measles or German Measles occurring in their houses.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Both cases notified had been attended by an untrained midwife, who is no longer in practice. In neither instance did permanent damage to eyesight result.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Only five cases were notified throughout the year, three pulmonary and two meningeal; each case died and three cases notified in previous years also died, a total of eight deaths.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. — There was no epidemic of non-notifiable infectious disease during the year. On the whole there was less illness than usual throughout the year. Cancer was very prevalent and eight cases died.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—In July the County Council adopted a scheme for the treatment of Venereal Diseases and for the practical application of Scientific Laboratory methods to the diagnosis of such diseases. The facilities offered are available without cost to patients or to Medical Practitioners and under conditions of strict secrecy. Full details in connection therewith were published in the circular issued by the County Council. From my personal knowledge there has been a greater prevalence of these diseases since the war in this district than ever before and energetic steps will have to be taken to deal with them if the inevitable ghastly consequences are to be avoided.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—The Health Missioner appointed by the County Council continues to visit all homes in which births have occurred with advantage to both mothers and infants. I am glad to be able to testify to the great tact she has displayed in the performance of these important duties.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.—The routine work necessary for the protection of public health have been faithfully carried out as may be seen by referring to the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector, though much sanitary work that would in normal circumstances, have been insisted on has been postponed in accordance with the suggestion of the Local Government Board.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.—No house has been erected during the year. A circular was issued by the Local Government Board making enquiries as to the necessity of further housing accommodation for the working classes throughout England and Wales, and the matter is receiving the attention of the County Council. With regard to this district there can be no doubt that though there is enough—or nearly enough—housing accommodation for the present population, the quality of the accommodation is not altogether satisfactory. I believe that if a better quality of house were provided there would be no lack of tenants and the closing of unsatisfactory properties would be facilitated—in fact, would automatically follow. There is reason to believe that during the summer months when a large number of visitors come to spend their holidays in the district, there is a certain amount of over-crowding at night, but as most of their time is spent out of doors, the likelihood of damage to health is not great—morally, however, such overcrowding is not to be desired.

DAYLIGHT SAVING.—I have nothing to add on this subject to my remarks in the annual report for last year.

FOOD SUPPLY.—Up to the end of the year there was no marked evidence of food shortage in the district, but there was considerable evidence of waste on the part of the working classes, who seemed, in many instances, unable to realise the necessity for economy: the rationing of the people will save this waste to a great extent.

In July I called your attention to the Fly Danger and some posters were displayed and leaflets issued on this subject. In December I called your attention to the necessity of ensuring a priority supply of milk to children, nursing and expectant mothers and invalids; this was done.

Orders, Memoranda, or Circulars have been received from the Local Government Board during the year on the subjects of Acute Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and Prevention of Smallpox.

In conclusion, may I once more gratefully acknowledge the cordial co-operation of the Health Committee and their kind consideration in circumstances due to the pressure of other duties. I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. STANLEY ROBINSON.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN STOURPORT URBAN DISTRICT.

	Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	25	24
1 Measles	—	1
2 Influenza	—	1
3 Pulmonary tuberculosis	4	2
4 Tuberculosis meningitis	1	1
5 Cancer, malignant disease	6	5
6 Organic heart disease	—	1
7 Bronchitis	2	3
8 Appendicitis and typhilitis	—	1
9 Congenital debility, etc.	1	1
10 Other defined diseases	11	8
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age						1	3
TOTAL BIRTHS	34	30
Legitimate	32	27
Illegitimate	2	3

POPULATION—

For Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	4306
For Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	3863

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON W.C.2

April, 1918.

**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1917.**

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Premises visited and inspected	...	...	...	...	...	510
Works in progress—visits thereto	...	...	...	...	...	140
Meetings of, and visits with owners <i>re</i> work required to be done...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Ditto, with Agents	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of houses, the defects in which were remedied without Closing Order	...	...	...	...	...	119

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of infectious cases enquired into ...	...	...	...	...	...	26
No. of visits thereto ...	...	...	...	...	...	61
No. of premises disinfected ...	...	...	...	...	...	4

**IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT OF INSPECTION,
AND NOTICES SERVED.**

Dwelling Houses.

No. cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	95
No. cleansed after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Floors repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	28
No. of floors re-laid ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of walls repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
No. of roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	39
No. of defective chimneys repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of fire grates repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
External walls tarred or otherwise treated...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Windows made to open ...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Pantries lighted and ventilated ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pantry floors relaid ...	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of gutters and downspouts renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. of gutters and down spouters repaid ...	...	...	...	...	...	32
No. of dust bins provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	18

SCULLERIES, WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

No. of sculleries limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. of scullery floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of W.C.'s limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	24
No. of W.C. floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of W.C. floors relaid	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of Stonewall sinks, and sink wastes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	15

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

No. laid or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	19
No. trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	19
No. of drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	19
No. of inspection chambers with intercepting traps provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
No. of broken W.C. pedestals renewed	...	...	...	...	...	21
No. of additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of urinals repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of W.C.'s lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of privies converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of privies with fixed receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	38
No. of fresh water flushed closets	...	...	...	...	...	727
No. of drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	25

OTHER NUISANCES.

Accumulation of refuse and manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
SCAVENGING.						
No. of houses from which refuse is removed	...	...	...	...	...	1,064
No. of ashpits cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	855
No. of dust bins emptied	...	...	...	...	...	17,238
No. of loads removed	...	...	...	...	...	1,059
No. of cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	22
No. of privies emptied	...	...	...	...	...	67
No. of load removed	...	...	...	...	...	148

WATER SUPPLY.

No. of houses supplied from waterworks during the year	...	...	1,055
No. of wells closed	...	...	2
No. of houses connected to mains	...	...	7

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No. registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	49

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. under inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
No. of insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances						...	9
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

No. of purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
No. of dairies registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of contraventions of orders and regulations dealt with	...					...	2
No. of cowsheds in district	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
No. of milking cows in district	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

UN SOUND FOOD.

Amount surrendered as unfit for human consumption						approximately 42lbs.
Amount destroyed as unfit for human consumption						approximately 42lbs.

CLERICAL WORK.

No. of preliminary notices served	...	...	...	...	...	219
No. of Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Statutory notices outstanding...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of official letters written	...	...	...	...	...	375

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE J. EDMUNDSON.

Printed by Order of the Council,

A. D. CAPEL LOFT,

Clerk to the Council,

1st May, 1918.

